



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

For Immediate Release

May 24, 2005

Contact Person

Robert A. Anderson
Assistant U.S. Attorney

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST ARRAIGNED IN FEDERAL COURT TODAY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Peter Daniel Young, DOB: 6/27/1977, originally of Mercer Island, Washington, was arraigned in federal court today on charges of unlawfully interfering with interstate commerce and with engaging in animal enterprise terrorism. On September 22, 1998, Peter D. Young and Justin C. Samuel were indicted by a grand jury sitting in Western District of Wisconsin.

The indictment alleged that in October 1997, Young and Samuel set out on a cross-country journey to attack fur farms and release livestock with the intent to cause significant economic damage to the farms. In addition, the indictment alleged overt acts in three states - South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin (the largest mink producing state in the nation) - as part of a conspiracy by the defendants to engage in extortion by attempting to coerce the fur farmers to close their businesses rather than face the threat of further economic losses as a result of their attacks.

The overt acts alleged in the six count indictment include conducting surveillance on numerous farms and the release of breeding stock mink from fur farms

in Independence, Medford, and Tomahawk, Wisconsin. In total, 3,600 mink were released.

Young was a fugitive sought by the federal government on these charges for the past seven years. He was apprehended by local police in San Jose, California in March, while shoplifting music CD's. Young was using an alias and false identification at the time of his arrest.

Peter D. Young faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each of the four counts involving interference with interstate commerce, and one year in prison on each of the counts of animal enterprise terrorism.

The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

#